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SIPDIS

USEU BRUSSELS FOR USEC
HQS USPACOM HONOLULU HI
DIA WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
CG III MEF CAMP COUTNEY JA
NSC WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC

AIDAC

STATE ALSO PASS TO USAID
STATE FOR TSUNAMI TASK FORCE 1
USAID/W FOR A/AID ANDREW NATSIOS, JBRAUSE
DCHA/OFDA GGOTTILIEB, MMARX, RTHAYER, BDEEMER
AID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA
TSUNAMI RESPONSE MANAGEMENT TEAM

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DCHA/FFP FOR LAUREN LANDIS
DCHA BUREAU FOR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ROGER WINTER
ANE DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MARK WARD
BANGKOK FOR OFDA SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISOR TOM DOLAN
KATHMANDU FOR OFDA REGIONAL ADVISOR WILLIAM BERGER
GENEVA FOR USAID KYLOH
ROME PASS FODAG
NSC FOR MELINE
CDR USPACOM FO J3/J4/POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [CASC](#) [EAID](#) [AEMR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA - EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS:

USAID/DART SITREP #2

SUMMARY

1. As of January 4, according to the Center for National Operations (CNO), the death toll in Sri Lanka due to the earthquake and tsunamis is 30,190. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that the immediate priority areas in Sri Lanka are water (including cleaning up and restoring water wells), sanitation, health, shelter, food and essential non-food items, and transportation means. OCHA also reported that the secondary threat of water and vector borne diseases is the greatest concern. While in many places the inundation from the tsunamis has receded, further flooding caused by heavy rains in some areas is hampering the relief efforts and exacerbating poor sanitary conditions of those displaced. According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), water and sanitation remains a top priority in all districts. Although some districts have adequate water supplies, the provision of temporary latrines and waste disposal remains a serious challenge. End summary.

DEATH TOLLS

2. The CNO, which is responsible for the overall coordination of the relief effort in Sri Lanka, reports that as of January 4, the earthquake and tsunamis killed 30,196 people, injured 15,683

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residents, displaced 834,849 persons, completely damaged 88,022 houses, and partially damaged 25,731 houses. There are currently 789 camps housing displaced persons.

Visit of USAID/OFDA Director

3. On January 5, the USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) Director arrived in Sri Lanka for a three day visit. The Director and USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) Leader met with the Sri Lankan Minister of Education who is overseeing operations at the CNO. The Director and Minister of Education discussed placing a USAID liaison officer at the CNO as well as a USAID Officer in the CNO's reconstruction committee to assist with the planning of reconstruction efforts. The Director and the USAID/DART Team Leader also met with Brigadier General Panter who is in charge of the U.S. military

support group in Sri Lanka. The Director and Brigadier
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General Panter discussed embedding a USAID officer with the U.S. military and how the U.S. military can support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in relief efforts. The Director will travel to Galle with Senator Frist and the USAID/DART Team Leader on January 6 and Maldives on January 7.

Water and Sanitation

14. On January 4, the USAID/DART Water and Sanitation Officer (WSO) attended a weekly coordination meeting at the Ministry of Urban Development and Water Supply (MUDWS). The MUDWS is providing guidelines for water and sanitation facilities at the camps that have been set up. These guidelines include estimates for the number of toilets, costs of construction, costs for hygiene education programs, and costs for soap. The MUDWS also provided guidelines for septic tanks and for the construction of toilets and pit latrines.

15. The MUDWS also identified the following items as necessary to restore the water supply facilities damaged by the earthquake and tsunamis: water meters, alum, water purification plants and generators, bladders, and tankering trucks. The MUDWS also stated that after compiling information from all districts in Sri Lanka, the MUDWS estimates that the cost to rehabilitate approximately 12,130 wells that were damaged by the tsunami will be USD 73,000.

16. According to the MUDWS, the cost for immediate rehabilitation projects is estimated at USD 63.88 million, and the cost for long-term rehabilitation projects is estimated to be USD 173.89 million. Long-term rehabilitation projects include the completion of existing projects and the rehabilitation and augmentation of existing systems.

17. According to UNICEF, water and sanitation remains a top priority in all districts. Although some districts have adequate water supplies, the provision of temporary latrines and waste disposal remains a serious challenge.

18. OCHA reports that the secondary threat of water and vector borne diseases is the greatest concern. While in many places the inundation from the tsunamis has receded, further flooding caused by heavy rains in some areas is hampering the relief effort and exacerbating poor sanitary conditions of those displaced.

Health
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19. At a daily meeting at the CNO, the Ministry of Health (MOH) reported that the earthquake and tsunamis damaged 22 hospitals, including 3 in southern Sri Lanka and 19 in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. The earthquake and tsunamis damaged approximately 70 field health centers and 68 small clinics in neighborhoods and rural areas. The MOH reported that 400 medical personnel from 45 countries are currently providing humanitarian assistance in Sri Lanka.

110. According to UNICEF, there have been no reports of any major outbreaks of diseases in the temporary camps. UNICEF, in conjunction with the MOH, is disseminating health promotion messages on hygiene, waste disposal, and breast-feeding. Fifteen emergency medical kits containing essential drugs and medical supplies to address basic health requirement needs for 150,000 people for 3 months were dispatched to the districts on December 31, along with additional oral rehydration salts and sodium lactate infusions.

111. On January 5, the USAID/DART WSO met with the MOH Assistant Epidemiologist with the Committee on Communicable Diseases to discuss the sentinel surveillance system. According to the USAID/DART WSO, health data arrives from districts daily, and public health inspectors are currently visiting camps on a daily basis. However, due to the large number of camps, the system is currently overwhelmed. [Comment: The USAID/DART WSO noted that the Epidemiology Unit is willing to accept assistance. End Comment.]

¶12. The Epidemiology Unit would like to establish a separate hotline for disaster management and medical issues and would also like to have additional personnel. The Epidemiology Unit expects that they will need additional staff for another three months and would like financial assistance to transport specimens and to purchase laboratory supplies. The USAID/DART discussed providing support to the health surveillance system with the Minister of Education at the CNO, and the USAID/DART is currently evaluating formulating an appropriate intervention to support the health surveillance system.

Protection

¶13. According to the CNO, registration of children who have lost one or more parents has begun. The Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) is currently reviewing options regarding the long-term care of these
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children, and the Ministry of Justice, specifically, is assisting with legal issues in this area. UNICEF has started to collect information on the total number of unaccompanied and separated children. Coordination meetings between UNICEF, the Department of Probation and Child Care (DPCC), the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), and Save the Children have begun.

¶14. UNICEF reported that the first reports of incidents of sexual and gender based violence and abuse in displaced camps have been received.

LUNSTEAD